

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Note: this section represents a listing of all claims pending in the case with their status including amendments currently made. Addition of text is represented by underlining, deletion of text by ~~striketrough~~.

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Previously amended) A method for producing a coating or diffusion layer on a substrate for use in contact with a food product or beverage, said coating or diffusion layer preventing or inhibiting passage therethrough of flavor-active or odor-active compounds, and said method comprising applying to the surface of said substrate an effective amount of a copolymer comprising a flexible component and a retentive component, said flexible component being sufficiently flexible to allow the coated substrate to undergo compression and recovery and said retentive component being able to bind with or otherwise retain flavor-active or odor-active compounds.

Claim 14 (Amended) A method according to claim ~~46~~ 13, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of a bottle closure, packaging or wrapping material, a bottle and other containers.

Claim 15 (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said substrate is a natural or synthetic cork, and said coating or diffusion layer prevents or inhibits passage of flavor-active or odor-active compounds from said cork to an alcoholic beverage in contact with said cork.

Claim 16 (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said flexible component is sufficiently flexible to allow the coated cork to be compressed and then to recover during a bottling process.

Claim 17 (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said flavor-active compounds are trichloroanisoles (TCA).

Claim 18 (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said copolymer is selected from the group consisting of graft, alternating and block copolymers.

Claim 19 (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said flexible component is formed from silicon-based monomers.

Claim 20 (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said ~~copolymer~~ retentive component is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylacetate (PVA) ~~copolymers~~ polymers, polyurethane ~~copolymers~~ polymers and ionomers, terephthalate ~~copolymers~~ polymers, styrene-acrylonitrile (SAN)/ acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, (vinylidene)-~~copolymers~~, vinylidene polymers, polybutadiene, epoxy ~~copolymers~~ polymers, amide ~~copolymers~~ polymers, Bisphenol ~~copolymers~~ polymers, Bisphenol A (BPA) - epichlorohydrin ~~copolymers~~ polymers, poly (methyl) methacrylate ~~copolymers~~ polymers, poly(methacrylic acid) ~~copolymers~~ polymers, cellulose ~~copolymers~~ polymers, polyethylene vinyl alcohol ~~copolymers~~ polymers, polyethylene glycol (PEG), ~~silane copolymers and siloxane copolymers~~ functionalised silane polymers and functionalised siloxane polymers.

Claim 21(Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein said retentive component is a polyvinylacetate (PVA) polymer.

Claim 22 (Amended) A method according to claim ~~23~~ 20, wherein said ~~copolymer~~ retentive component is selected from the group consisting of silane and siloxane ~~copolymers~~ polymers, comprising functionalities selected from the group consisting of ~~polyethyleneglycol (PEG)~~, isoprene, butadiene, lactone, amino, terephthalate, amino acid, heterocyclic, hydride (SiH), thiol and epoxy functionalities.

Claim 23 (Amended) A coated substrate produced according to the method of claim ~~16~~ 13.

Claim 24 (Amended) A coated cork produced according to the method of claim ~~16~~ 13.

Claim 23 (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said flexible component is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate, polybutylene, polybutadiene, polydienes, polyisoprene, polyethylene, polyvinylethers, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylidene fluoride, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyalkenes, polyalkanes, polysiloxanes, polysilanes and polysilazanes.